

VZCZCXYZ1129  
PP RUEHWEB

DE RUEHAK #5395/01 2581431  
ZNR UUUUU ZZH  
P 151431Z SEP 06  
FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8727  
RUEHIT/AMCONSUL ISTANBUL 1282

UNCLAS ANKARA 005395

SIPDIS

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [OTRA](#) [OREP](#) [AMGT](#) [AFIN](#) [PGOV](#) [TU](#)

SUBJECT: COUNTRY CLEARANCE ANGELA M. THERIAULT - ANKARA AND  
ISTANBUL

REF: STATE 150753

¶1. (U) Mission warmly welcomes and grants country clearance to Angela M. Theriault to travel to Turkey September 17 - 21, ¶2006. Embassy telephone is (90)(312) 455-5555, 24 hours a day.

¶2. (U) Hotel reservations for Istanbul have been confirmed at the Ritz Carlton Istanbul, Suzer Plaza, Elmadag, 34367, Sisli, Istanbul Tel: 90-212-334 4444, Fax 90-21-2334 4455. Reservations for Ankara will be communicated in a separate communication.

¶3. (U) Visas: Please note that all Americans entering Turkey must have a valid Visa. The only exception is military personnel under CINC control traveling on NATO orders. Military IDs are not/not acceptable travel documents. Travelers with tourist passports can obtain a Visa valid for one entry/three months at ports of entry upon payment of a USD 30 fee in cash. (This fee is payable only U.S. dollars cash.) Holders of official or diplomatic passports must obtain Visas from the nearest Turkish Embassy (not Consulate) before arriving in Turkey. Visas for official and diplomatic passports will not/not be available at ports of entry.

¶4. (U) Health Safety: Information on vaccinations and other health precautions can be obtained from the Center for Disease Control and Prevention hotline for international travelers (tel: 1-877-394-747); fax 1-800-232-3299; or via the internet at [HTTP//www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov).

¶5. (U) Security Assessment: In the aftermath of Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF) there continues to be the potential for both transnational and indigenous terrorist groups to target U.S. interests in Turkey. After the Gulf War, the predecessor to the Turkish Terrorist Group Revolutionary People's Liberation Party/Front (DHKP/C) assassinated four Americans in Turkey and carried out numerous bombings of U.S. targets (mostly private sector businesses, although two rockets were directed toward the Consulate General in Istanbul). Subsequent to the ending of OIF hostilities, there have been isolated terrorist bombings attributed to DHKP/C and other indigenous terrorist groups in protest of OIF. Other Turkish terrorist groups with anti-Western sympathies include Marxist-Leninist Communist Party (MLKP), Turkish Communist Party/Marxist Leninist (TKP/ML), Turkish Workers and Peasants Revolutionary Army (TIKKO) and Islamic Greater Eastern Raiders/Front (IBDA/C).

Al-Qa'ida threats to target U.S. facilities in Turkey have been public knowledge for some time. On November 15, two synagogues in Istanbul were the targets of suicide car bombs. On November 20, 2003, the British Consulate General and the London-based HSBC bank in Istanbul were damaged by powerful explosions, killing dozens and wounding hundreds. These incidents represent a significant change from prior attacks in Turkey, which have previously involved small-scale, random

bombings and small numbers of casualties. The investigations of these incidents in Istanbul remain open but transnational terrorist links are suspected. The potential for violence and terrorist actions against U.S. citizens and interests continue.

The Turkish National Police (TNP) is quite responsive in their role as protector of U.S. diplomatic and military interests in Turkey. The TNP has provided enhanced coverage at each of our facilities in Ankara, Istanbul, Adana and Izmir. The incidence of crime, both violent and the more traditional tourist crimes (pick pocketing, purse-snatching, etc.), is relatively low throughout Turkey. Visitors to Istanbul should be aware that tourist-type crimes are more prevalent there, especially in the traditionalist tourist areas, such as Sultanahmet and Istiklal Caddesi. The security office encourages visitors to report any security incidents, including surveillance, to the RSO immediately.

Useful security information about Turkey is available on the following websites:

--Embassy Ankara: [HTTP://WWW.USEMB-ANKARA.ORG.TR](http://WWW.USEMB-ANKARA.ORG.TR) (Click on Security Matters)

--Consulate General Istanbul:  
[HTTP://USCONSULATE-ISTANBUL.ORG.TR](http://USCONSULATE-ISTANBUL.ORG.TR)

16. (U) For further information regarding travel in Turkey, consult the consular information sheet. The consulate information sheet and public announcements are available on the internet at: [HTTP://TRAVEL.STATE.GOV](http://TRAVEL.STATE.GOV)

Other information is available on the following websites:

--The State Department Consular Affairs (CA) websites:  
[HTTP://WWW.TRAVEL.STATE.GOV/TURKEY.HTML](http://WWW.TRAVEL.STATE.GOV/TURKEY.HTML)

--US Embassy Ankara:  
[HTTP://WWW.USEMB-ANKARA.ORG.TR](http://WWW.USEMB-ANKARA.ORG.TR)

Visit Ankara's Classified Web Site at  
<http://www.state.sgov.gov/p/eur/ankara/>

WILSON